

Moons of Other Planets

Solar system objects move compared to distant stars as they orbit the Sun.

But moons orbit planets and their locations are compared to their planet as the planet moves. Therefore many observations are needed to establish whether a given object orbits the Sun or a planet.

In this exercise you will carefully examine photos of the gas and ice giants taken by an amateur astronomer and compare it to a map in a planetarium program for that date and time. With detective work you can find out which dot is a moon and which a planet.

<https://www.edhat.com/news/jupiter-and-four-moons> shows the Jovian moon on Aug 9, 2020 in California.



Set Stellarium for that date and time converted.

The names are visible. This can also be done in a field as people look at Jupiter, although telescope eyepieces are often a mirror image. The person operating the telescope can identify any flips.